



SIRIUS TALENT

Year 8 drama students from Sirius College have been short-listed for the Focus On Ability Short Film Festival. Their film *Spectrum Disorder* has a positive message against bullying. REPORT PAGE 14



Picture: TIM CARRAFA

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Sirius College students (from left) Mahmoud, Hassan, Taqi, Mohammed, Abdellah and Yasir are finalists in the Focus On Ability Film Festival. Picture: TIM CARRAFA

Students turn lens on ability

Bridie Byrne

AS FAR as successful film messaging goes, a college at Broadmeadows is right on cue.

A group of Sirius College Meadow Fair Campus students have made the finals in the Focus On Ability Short Film Festival.

The awards are designed to encourage budding filmmakers to focus on the ability of people who have a disability.

The six Year 8 drama class

students made a short film, *Spectrum Disorder*, that focuses on a student who is being bullied because he has autism. His torment ends when other students in his class stick up for him.

Years 7 and 8 co-ordinator Adrian Verga said he was proud of what the students had accomplished.

Mr Verga said the film explored topics such as bullying, bystanding and perceived disabilities.

"The message of the film is to accept everyone and that

everyone has good qualities regardless of their perceived shortcomings," he said.

This year's competition received a record 209 nominations, including 101 school entries and 53 international films from 19 countries.

Sirius College is in the running for the Judges' Choice - Best School Short Film and School with Most Online Votes.

Voting closes on August 7. To vote for the school, visit focusonability.com.au